of assistance which have been received can be taken only after these offers have been duly evaluated.

Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Limited, Asansol

@617. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a high power committee to examine the prospects of reviving the Hindustan Pilkington Class Works Limited of Asansol which changed several hands during the last ten years and whose 1400 employees are waiting for a final decision in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks and financial institutions are in favour of nationalisation of the unit; and

(c) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A committee consisting of representative of the State Government of West Bengal, Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India and Grindlays Bank was constituted to consider the offers of varrious private parties who had shown interest in taking over the unit. The entrepreneur whose offer was found suitable by the Committee has not shown interest. The future disposition of the Company has to be decided by banks, financial institutions and the State Government.

(b) and (c) The Central Government have no proposal to take over the management of the undertaking of Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Ltd. at Asansol under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act or nationalise the unit.

@Previously Unstarred Question 157, transferred from the 25th February, 1986.

Newsprint prices

†618. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for increasing the newsprint prices;

(b) what will be its likely effect on the newspaper industry and the reading public in general; and

(c) whether Government propose to rectify the situation arising out of the increase in the newsprint prices, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The claims of the indigenous newsprint manufacturers for revision of their ex-mill prices on account of the escalations in the cost of raw materials and other inputs were got examined by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices before Government decided to permit the price increase with effect from 31-12-1985. A large part of the escalations in costs claimed by the manufacturers was on account of the increase in working costs for forest raw materials and related taxes, increases in royalties, hikes in power rates and increases in tax on self-generated power. Indigenous newsprint manufacturers are allowed to charge only the normative prices as recommended by BICP.

Apparel Export Promotion Council

619. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN-SHAWL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unistarred Question 838 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1985, regarding the violation of the conditions of the licence granted under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956 to the Appearel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi and state:

†Previously Unstarred Question 9 Transferred from the 21st February, 1986.